



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/973,864	10/10/2001	John R. Hind	RSW920010123US1	7060

7590 03/29/2004
Gerald R. Woods
IBM Corporation T81/503
PO Box 12195
Research Triangle Park, NC 27709

EXAMINER

HOMERE, JEAN RAYMOND

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
----------	--------------

2177

DATE MAILED: 03/29/2004

3

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

8

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/973,864

Applicant(s)

HIND ET AL.

Examiner

Jean R. Homere

Art Unit

2177

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE ____ MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 10 October 2001.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-16 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-16 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☒ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on ____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 2.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. ____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: ____.

Art Unit: 2177

DETAILED ACTION

Information Disclosure Statement

1. The information disclosure statement (IDS) submitted on 10/10/01 was timely filed. The submission is in compliance with the provisions of 37 CFR 1.97. Accordingly, the information disclosure statement is being considered by the examiner.

Specification

2. The title of the invention is not descriptive. A new title is required that is clearly indicative of the invention to which the claims are directed.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

3. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

4. Claims 1-16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Meffert, US Patent No. 5,884,321.

As to claim 1, Meffert teaches a query management system for application databases to thereby provide views for electronic objects (col. 2, lines 48-56 et seq.) In particular, Meffert teaches the receipt of rules for organizing the electronic objects (col. 3, lines 13—15 et seq.) Meffert also teaches the application of the rules to the electronic objects to thereby organize said

Art Unit: 2177

objects (col. 3, lines 26-56 et seq.) Additionally, Meffert teaches the presentation of a view of the organized objects (col. 4, lines 53-56 et seq.)

As to claims 2-5, Meffert teaches a plurality of virtual views including a hierarchical view, a nodal view, a network view, and a visual view (col. 4, lines 57-67 et seq.)

As to claim 6, Meffert teaches that the electronic documents include e-mail, textual documents or image files (col. 3, lines 15-18 et seq.)

As to claim 7, Meffert teaches the organization of rules to generate a multi-level index using a node-specific organizing criteria (col. 4, lines 32-41 et seq.)

As to claims 8-10, Meffert teaches the repeat of operations to render request, modify organization rules (col. 4, lines 50-52; col. 5, lines 18-21 et seq.)

As to claim 11, Meffert teaches text characters, words, phrases as organization criteria (col. 8, lines 34-44 et seq.)

As to claim 12, Meffert teaches image files as organizing criteria (col. (col. 3, lines 15-18, et seq.)

Art Unit: 2177

5. The limitations of claims 13-16 have already been discussed in the rejection of claims 1-12 above. They are therefore rejected for the same reasons.

Conclusion

6. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

7. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Jean R. Homere whose telephone number is (703)-308-6647.

The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday from 09:30 a.m.-6:00 p.m.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, John Breene, can be reached on Monday-Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. at (703)-305-9790.

Any response to this action should be mailed to: Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks Washington, D.C. 20231, **or faxed to:** (703) 872-9306. Hand-delivered responses should be brought to Crystal Park II, 2121 Crystal Drive, Arlington, VA., Sixth Floor (Receptionist).

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application should be directed to the Group receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 305-3900.

Jean R. Homere
Primary Examiner, A.U. 2177
March 16, 2004